

Security & Protective Services

The security and safety of the Governor and the First Family were major considerations in the selection of a site for the Governor's Residence. Due to California's preeminent position as a leader in the world marketplace for ideas, technology, entertainment, and culture, our Governor often entertains national and international leaders in these areas. Ensuring the safety and security of those events is within the jurisdiction of the California Highway Patrol, Governor's Protective Detail.

The Governor's Protective Detail reviewed each of the sites considered by the Commission. According to the Governor's Protective Detail, generally, urban sites pose significantly more risks than a residential setting; however, time spent transporting the Governor on surface streets is also a security concern. Protective services concerns are raised when there is/are:

- significant traffic (vehicular, pedestrian, and mass transit);
- a lack of ample set back of residence from any public street or public views;
- an ability to "look down" or an unrestricted view of the residence from adjacent buildings, structures or property;
- distance from the residence to the State Capitol or to the Sacramento Airport;
- a lack of alternative routes to the State Capitol;
- insufficient entrances and exits;
- inadequate acreage for the residence and at least two ancillary buildings;
- a lack of immediate emergency services with accessibility to the property;
- an inability to construct fencing and/or walls on site's perimeter;
- nearby freeways and street parking immediately adjacent to the site; and
- a lack of accommodations for security personnel and their equipment.



The Governor's Protective Detail evaluated each of the sites considered by the Commission and issued a security rating. A Level One rating indicates the site meets all of the criteria to be an excellent location, from a security perspective, for the Governor's Residence. A Level Five rating indicates that the site has so many significant security issues that it could not be recommended for consideration. The Governor's Protective Detail did not prioritize the sites, as there are many factors to consider in site selection.

Level One – Satisfies or addresses all of the above concerns or criteria and can provide the highest level of security while allowing privacy to be maintained by the Governor and First Family.

Level Two – Poses some risks but those issues could be corrected or overcome.

Level Three – Poses at least three protective risks that may or may not be corrected or overcome.

Level Four – Poses significant risks for the Governor's Protective Detail and would require major design concessions if the site was selected.

Level Five – Poses so many security risks and issues that the Governor's Protective Detail cannot recommend the site for further consideration.

